

OPENING ANNOUNCEMENT:

"OUR HEADLINES OF THE WEEKS" Good _____
friends. This is another of YOUR personal programs, a
quarter hour devoted to WPA news and information concerning
YOUR community.

Each week at this time you are informed as to what is
happening INSIDE WPA, and just how the work of this
Federal agency affects YOUR community.

Today's WPA sketch is a dramatization of the work the
WPA Adult Education Schools are doing in their Americaniza-
tion Program.

Listen to one of the students of this institution as she
tells how, when, and why she became interested in this
particular phase of WPA's Adult Education work

MAGGIE

(SHE'S PLenty IRISH & A BIT TOO OLD TO BE JUST A
COLLIE) Maggie Sullivan was me name. I'm after
saying was, because I'm no longer a maiden. And
if ye've any doubts about me present status, I'll
have ye know right now ye'll be dealing with me
legally wedded husband in no time a-tall. Ah! But
'tis a fine man he is. And would ye believe it now
.... Maggie Sullivan was for passing him up for a
.... But will ye be listening to the likes of me.
Here I am with a fine story to tell ye about how I
became a citizen of this grand and glorious coun-
try and all I'm doing is to be smugging away with
me no good tongue about me private affairs. Still
and all, I'll have ye know, me previous life of
seclusion is the exact cause of me going to the....
Aint 'tis no story teller I am. So let me be going
back to the fine day around noon time when I was
on me way back to me little dress-shop after a bite
of lunch. In front of the door stood....

O'TOOLE

MAGGIE

(FADE IN QUICKLY) Th' top of th' day to ye, Maggie!
Out of me way, O'Toole! Out of me way! 'Tis plenty
of work a-waiting for me in me dress-shop. And I'll
have ye know I'm in no mood for the likes of you to
be a-standing in front of the door, blocking me way
in.

O'TOOLE

And I'll be after having you know, Maggie Sullivan,
'tis the law ye've elected yourself to be uncivil to.
And on such a fine day! The pity of it most!

MAGGIE Officer O'Toole! Will ye be after removing the ma-jesty of the law from in front of me shop? Or will I be forced to tear that over-sized uniform from off ye good for nothing bones....shred by shred.... and with me own hands too!

O'TOOLE (HEART) Aw Maggie! Have ye never a kind word for me? (CHANGE OF TONE) Ye know, I was a-standing here thinking. Me glorious Maggie is gone off up the street to partake of a well earned lunch. And since it's such a wonderful day....with the sun a-shining and the sky all blue....I'll be a-waiting here until she comes back.

MAGGIE And for what?

O'TOOLE Well first off....to be after realising how inadequate nature is.

MAGGIE What?

O'TOOLE Oh, I'll still admit 'tis a beautiful day. But beside me Maggie! (SIGNS)

MAGGIE Yes? I'm waiting, O'Toole, to hear ye tell a whopper this time. Or was ye sigh the best ye can do?

O'TOOLE Aw still ye tongue....lest I tell the truth and name ye for the hag ye really are!

MAGGIE Are ye after telling me....ye've run out of blarney, O'Toole?

O'TOOLE No. But I'll not be after wasting it on the likes of you, Maggie Sullivan!

MAGGIE Then, out of me way, O'Toole! Out of me way!

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O'TOOLE Ah Maggie! Maggie! We've been doing this for years.
 Ye know me story by heart! Must I be repeating it to
 ye again?

MAGGIE Off with ye now!

O'TOOLE Not while I have the chance to save ye from yerself!
 O'Toole is still a gentleman!

MAGGIE What nonsense are ye talking now? Maggie Sullivan
 can well take care of herself. And you know it, O'-
 Toole!

O'TOOLE Oh is that so! Then why are ye after standing by while
 that Hardy J. Dillington jilts ye again and again?

MAGGIE The nerve of ye! I'll have ye know that Mr. Dillington
 and Maggie Sullivan have set the day. And this time
 the deed will be done too.

O'TOOLE Not while his mother is alive and kicking!

MAGGIE For shame, O'Toole! Ye're a much too jealous man
 for yer own good!

O'TOOLE Not jealous, Maggie! I'm a man of pity. And ye're
 much in need of me pity too. For I know.....as you
 know.....that Mrs. Dillington is the wall between
 you and that milk-sop in trousers ye'd be a-carrying.

MAGGIE O'Toole! Ye're speaking of me husband-to-be!

O'TOOLE His mother has found excuses before to keep you from
 becoming her daughter-in-law. And she'll do it again.
 pernicious

MAGGIE Ye're a ~~liar~~^{pernicious} and a ruffian, O'Toole! Now, out of me
 way!

O'TOOLE 'Tis a pleasure! Now off with ye! Go on! Go in ye
 shop! Mrs. Dillington is a-waiting ye. And I could

O'TOOLE (cont'd) see by her eyes that's she's cooked up a pretty
scheme this time to keep ye a maiden. And the pity
of it too....when there're men like O'Toole around,
waiting and willing to make an honest wife of ye!

MAGGIE Out of me way, ye blue-velled bag of wind! And don't
be a-hanging around no shop-door againt! Or I'll be
after sending for a cop!

O'TOOLE And what do ye think I am? A tailor's dummy in un-
iform!

MAGGIE 'Tis on me tongue to name ye, O'Toole! But if I spoke
me mind, Saint Peter would mark me off his book and
swallow the key for shame. So I'll not be a-cussing
ye as I should and as ye deserved (GOING AWAY FAST)
So good day, O'Toole!

SOUND DOOR OPENS & SLAMS.

MUSIC UP BRIEFLY & FADE FOR FOLLOWING SCENE.

O'TOOLE (FADE IN) (GENTLY) Now, Maggie! Now, Maggie! Dry ye
tears. 'Tisn't like you to be a-sweeping.

MAGGIE But not a sound was I after making, doing it!

O'TOOLE I know, I know, Maggie. Ye didn't make a sound with
yer weeping. But what a mess of ye face the tears
have made.

MAGGIE Ye'd be a-sweeping too.... were ye in my place.

O'TOOLE I take it, then, that Mrs. Dillington has found
another excuse....as I was after a-murning ye she
would....to keep her son to herself.

MAGGIE O'Toole! That woman is a blight to her sex and a....
a.... And she's worse than no good! And she's no
mother either!

O'TOOLE Hardy thinks she's hist. And ye'll be knowing now
that he obeys her!

MAGGIE Ah! Now I was a-wishing he'd become a man and cut
himself loose from that woman's apron strings. First
she wanted him to go back to college. He did it. And
we didn't get married. Then we had to wait until he
set himself up in business. And 'tis so silly to be
a-waiting on the one ye love.

O'TOOLE 'Tis indeed, Maggie. But what is it this time?

MAGGIE Just as the day was set and all....she suddenly re-
members I'm not a citizen of this country. And now
I ask you....what's that got to do with it?

O'TOOLE (STARTLED) Oh, but Maggie! But that's.... 'Tis
disgraceful! I thought you.... And all these
years too. For shame, Maggie!

MAGGIE What's th' matter with ye, O'Toole! Are ye taking
sides with that woman?

O'TOOLE Not a-tall, Maggie, for she's twisted the truth to
fit her own evil purposes.

MAGGIE Indeed, and ye are a gentleman, O'Toole. Heaven for-
give me for not knowing it 'til now!

O'TOOLE Ah, Maggie! And besides that and loving ye, I'm ye
friend. Ye friend!

MAGGIE Yes?

O'TOOLE Ye really ought to be a citizen, Maggie. In fact,
Heaven forgive you for neglecting to take ye papers
out long ago!

MAGGIE But why, O'Toole? Why? What's the advantage?

O'TOOLE *Sei 'Tis an advantage ye want! Isn't it enough to walk along the street and look about ye and see all the wonders of this great land and say to yerself: "This is my land! My very own! And in it I'm free! In it I can earn a living and be judged according to my own talent and individual disposition!"*

MAGGIE *Mrs. Dillington is a citizen. And she isn't judging Maggie Sullivan by any such measures....I'll have ye know!*

O'TOOLE *(STERNLY) Maggie Sullivan! Ye need enlightenment. And that, so help me!, is big doses.*

MAGGIE *Aw go on with ye now! Dosen't Do I look as if I'm sick.*

O'TOOLE *By all that's holy! Ye are sick! And I'll not be contaminated by ye disease either! So ye'll be fetching yer bonnet. Go on! Get it!*

MAGGIE *And for what!*

O'TOOLE *'Tis to a school ye're going, Maggie Sullivan.*

MAGGIE *WHAT!*

O'TOOLE *Yes, and ye'll be thanking me in no time a-tall for having dragged ye there! Ye need more sense, Maggie Sullivan. First, so ye can appreciate the land where ye've earned ye living for so long. And second....well, an improved mind might improve ye taste in men. So's ye'd be able to pick a good husband.*

MAGGIE *For instance?*

O'TOOLE *The O'Toole's can't be beat, Maggie. Not when women are in need of fine and ready husbands.*

MAGGIE I'll not be going to a school! Do ye hear, O'Toole!
I'll not be going! (FADE) I'll not be going!

MUSIC UP BRIEFLY & FADE FOR NEXT SCENE.

O'TOOLE (FADE IN) It's your turn next, Maggie! So step up
to the desk and make ye desires known to the lady!

MAGGIE Alright, but I still think it's silly!

TEACHER Yes? May I help you?

MAGGIE Maybe. What kind of a place is this, anyhow?

TEACHER Well, it might be called many things.

MAGGIE If O'Toole, here, recommends it....so I was after
thinking.

TEACHER Oh, I don't know about that. Officer O'Toole has
been this school's very good friend in the past.

MAGGIE Well, no one will ever be able to say that Maggie
Sullivan hasn't an open mind. So....talk away, lady,
and tell me what ye're selling.

TEACHER Hmmm. I've a better idea. (CHANGE OF TONE) Wouldn't
you like to have me show you our school and the things
our students and teachers are trying to do here?

MAGGIE Aw very well. (FADE) What can I lose....just by look-
ing!

MUSIC UP BRIEFLY & FADE FOR NEXT SCENE.

MAGGIE (FADE IN) Well! If it isn't Officer O'Toole!

O'TOOLE The same.

MAGGIE And where have you been these many months?

O'TOOLE Never mind that. (HAGGERLY) Are you still in school,
Maggie?

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MAGGIE I'll be after telling you....Maggie Sullivan hasn't missed a night since the time you, yourself, took me there!

O'TOOLE And what do you think of it, Maggie?

MAGGIE (HARSHLY) O'Toole! Have you ever been shut up in a room, a room all dark and dark, and then have a window flung open? A window, all clean and big so's you could really see what the world was like!

O'TOOLE So you like the school, Maggie!

MAGGIE I do indeed!

O'TOOLE Why, Maggie? Why?

MAGGIE Remember, O'Toole, what you said to me about me being sick?

O'TOOLE Yes.

MAGGIE Well, I was sick. And there must be thousands of people around here with the same disease. You see, I came to this country when I was a little girl. The world was at peace. The living here was good. Easy to make. And I just....well, just lived.

O'TOOLE You've had plenty of company, Maggie. Others have come to this country and done what you did.

MAGGIE I know. And the pity of it is....now that there's a place where they can go and improve themselves in more ways than one....but few are after knowing where and how!

O'TOOLE 'Tis the truth ye speak, Maggie!

MAGGIE But Maggie Sullivan is taking good care not to have one young lady make the mistake I made!

O'TOOLE Huh? What on earth are ye talking about?

MAGGIE That girl ye see walking toward us. She's just come here from Europe. And I'm taking her with me to....

(CALLING) The top of the evening to ye, Olga!

OLGA (COMING TO MIKE) Olga! Olga! Here I is.

MAGGIE (ASIDE) See what I mean, O'Toole? A Foreigner!

(TO OLGA) Meet Officer O'Toole, Olga!

OLGA Bum! Big and nice!

O'TOOLE But she ain't dumb! And when did you get your final papers, Maggie? The top of the evening, Olga!

MAGGIE Not yet! But soon, O'Toole!

O'TOOLE Final!

OLGA Now you tell Olga of nice places? What you call it ...school?

MAGGIE Sure! Come on, O'Toole. Walk along with us until we get where we're going.

O'TOOLE 'Tis a pleasure. The moon is high and big and bright. The sky is blue and clear. But when I look at you and Olga! (SIGHES)

MAGGIE Save the blarney, O'Toole!

OLGA What is this place, Maggie?

MAGGIE Well, It's a WPA Adult Education School.

OLGA They make me citizen there?

MAGGIE No. But they'll teach you how to become a citizen. And a good one too.

OLGA Olga!

MAGGIE And they'll help you to get rid of that "shay."

OLGA Now?

MAGGIE By teaching you how to speak, read and write English.

OLGA Olga like that. But.... (SIGNS WITH REGRET)

MAGGIE And as I was after telling you....they'll teach you how to become a citizen. The courses in Americanization are swell!

O'TOOLE You bet they are!

MAGGIE They have to be....since they're very closely sponsored and guided by the local boards of education.

OLGA Will school get Olga job?

MAGGIE No. But it will help prepare you for a job.

OLGA Now?

MAGGIE Well, when you learn a little English....you can take stenography if you want to. Anyhow, there're plenty of commercial and vocational courses you can take.

OLGA Okay! Okay! Who teach me that?

MAGGIE Nice people, Olga. And every one of 'em is qualified to do the work too.

OLGA Only people from old country go to school?

MAGGIE No. Anybody can be after going. And no matter what you need, the WPA Adult Education School has it. But about the best thing they have to give, Olga, is a good idea of what Democracy is.

OLGA Olga think she like to learn about Democracy?

MAGGIE Well, this school is the place then.

OLGA Tell me more.

MAGGIE Sure'n 'tis a pleasure! To me, the WPA Adult Education School is after being a living symbol of Democracy itself. For qualified teachers....out of work....it means a place to earn their daily bread. It offers the key to citizenship to people like you and me, Olga. It gives this country's native sons and daughters a chance to improve their minds and hands so that they may get better jobs. It brings culture to the people who need it most. And above all....I'm after telling you 'tis a sound place to learn how to live with your fellow man.

OLGA Olga like that. But.... (SIGHES WORFULLY)

MAGGIE But what?

OLGA Olga have very little money.

MAGGIE Aw go on with ye, now! The WPA Adult Education School is free!

O'TOOLE By the way, Maggie....

MAGGIE Yes, and what's troubling you, Officer O'Toole?

O'TOOLE I was after wondering, Maggie Sullivan, what new thing the mother of Harry J. Billington will be thinking up to keep ye from becoming her daughter-in-law....when ye've become a citizen of this grand and glorious land?

MAGGIE Who cares, O'Toole?

O'TOOLE I was after thinking.... Bah!

MAGGIE Jilting me, are you?

O'TOOLE Are ye crazy, Maggie Sullivan?

MAGGIE Sure'n 'tis a pleasant feeling! But just the same, I'm after thinking I'd like to be Mrs. O'Toole!

O'TOOLE Ah! But 'tis a beautiful night! The sky is clear
and blue! The moon is big and round and bright;
But in all this night's glory!....'tis as nothing
beside me Maggie!

MAGGIE Save ye blarney, O'Toole, for the man in the marri-
age license bureau. Here's the school, Olga. Just
go right in that door. The top of the evening to
ye, O'Toole. And thanks to ye and all the rest of
ye full-fledged citizens for the WPA and its Adult
Education Schools!

CLOSING ANNOUNCEMENT:

You have just heard "WPA HEADLINES OF THE WEEK", another in the series of weekly broadcasts devoted to the work WPA is doing in YOUR community.

Friends, if you are interested in knowing more about WPA in the field of Adult Education, . . . why not write to Robert W. Allan at 1080 Broad Street in Newark, New Jersey.

Besides the valuable work being done in the Americanization and Literacy classes, the WPA Education Program is offering instruction in many mechanical and vocational courses enabling men and women to qualify for national defense jobs.

Today's sketch was written by Hughes Allison of the New Jersey Writers' Project.

"WPA HEADLINES OF THE WEEK" will be presented again at this same time next week.